



Milwaukee County

Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr., 16th District
Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, 4th District

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EXPLORE TRANSITIONING COUNTY PENSION PLAN INTO STATE SYSTEM

Supervisors introduce bold plan to save taxpayers millions in overhead costs

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisors John F. Weishan, Jr., and Marina Dimitrijevic are proposing a change to the County's pension system for all future employees. Both Supervisors are sponsoring a substitute resolution directing the Employee Benefits Work Group to review capping enrollment in the Milwaukee County Employee Retirement System and enrolling all future employees in the Wisconsin Retirement System. Both Supervisors released the following joint statement ahead of tomorrow's County Board vote on the resolution:

"A transition to the Wisconsin Retirement System would eliminate the need for administrative costs, including a pension board, actuary, and legal support. Every time changes are proposed for our current pension plan, it sets off costly litigation and expensive redesigns. It's time we look at consolidating our plan and eliminating overhead costs. This change would also simplify labor negotiations with our unions.

"While the proposal to lower pension credits for elected officials would only apply to 0.004% of the County's workforce, our proposal would apply to all 5,000+ County employees. This is the kind of true leadership needed to develop the best long-term solution. While others on the County Board are grandstanding to generate headlines for themselves, our solution produces multi-millions of dollars worth of savings for taxpayers.

"We have heard a lot recently about government consolidation. This is a clear case where the County can save money by being part of a larger retirement system. This is what people want. Let's let's take the benefit control away from the County and treat our pension plan the same as every other County in Wisconsin. This is a long-term solution that protects taxpayers and provides uniformity in retirement benefits for most state and local government workers."

The Wisconsin Retirement System is one of the best-managed public pension funds in the United States and administers retirement and other benefit programs for more than 550,000 participants and 1,400 employers. The resolution calls for the Employee Benefits Work Group to report its findings to the Personnel Committee and the Finance & Audit Committee by July 31, 2010.

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